(c) and (d) As the goods permitted to enter under the ATA Carnet are also to be allowed without payment of customs duty, there would be loss of revenue in respect of goods with are presently not permitted temporary importation without payment of duty. The goods which are presently permitted temporary importation are on execution of a bond by the importer for re-exportation of goods. The ATA Convention provides for waiver of Bill of Entry formalities in addition to customs duty exemption. If this facility is extended, it would require development of a suitable and dependable mechanism to monitor the import and identify speedily the cases of failure to re-export. The suggestion of FICCI therefore, needs careful examination.

Conversion of RIL plant as refinery

2810. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated the 11th February, 1988 wherein it has been stated that the Reliance Industries Limited is to get its Paraxylene Plant at Patelganga in Maharashtra notified as a Refinery resulting in a net gain of Rs. 120 crores per annum to the company;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for declaring the industry as a Refinery; and

(c) whether the matter has been examined before declaring it a Refinery and if not, the circumstances under which the industry has been declared a Refinery thus putting the exchequer to a great loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The news item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated 11-2-1988 and a refutation issued by M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. in the same newspaper dated 13-2-88 have come to the notice of the Government.

The request of M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. for giving refinery status to their plant at Patalganga is under consideration of the Government.

Visit of a delegation of leading French Companies to India

2811. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation of leading French companies, which visited India recently, had shown interest in increasing the quantum of trade between India and France; and

(b) if so, the conclusions reached and the arrangements made for export of more goods from India to France?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no intimation yet of any specific contracts having been finalised as yet in the wake of this visit. The Trade Development Authority has been appointed as the nodal agency for coordinating the follow up.

Export of tea to Pakistan

2812. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tea Board has recommended export of tea to Pakistan; and